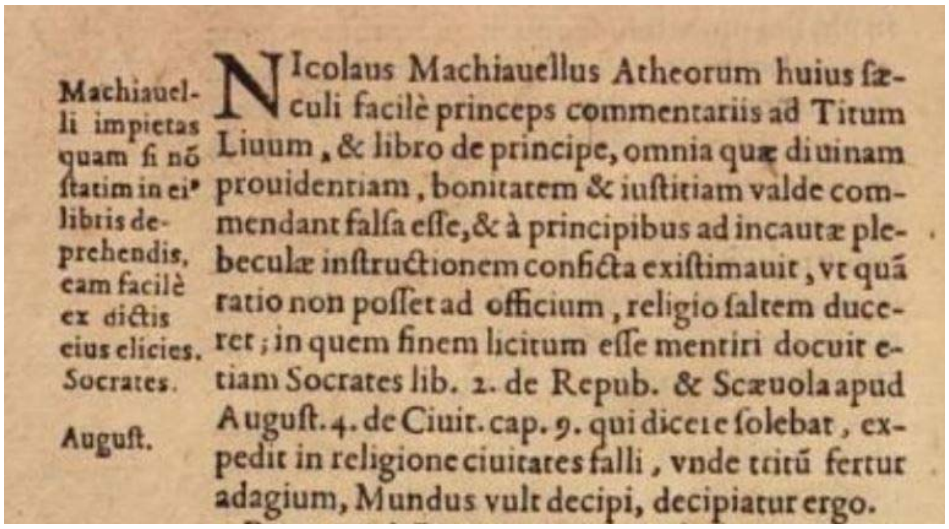
Machiauelli impietas quam ſi nõ ſtatim in eius libris deprehendis, eam facilè ex dictis eius elicies. Socrates.

Auguſt.

NIcolaus Machiauellus Atheorum huius ſæculi facilè princeps commentariis ad Titum Liuum, & libro de principe, omnia quæ diuinam prouidentiam, bonitatem & iuſtitiam valde commendant falſa eſſe, & à principibus ad incautæ plebeculæ inſtructionem conficta exiſtimauit, vt quã ratio non poſſet ad officium, religio ſaltem duceret; in quem finem licitum eſſe mentiri docuit etiam Socrates lib. 2. de Repub. & Scæuola apud Auguſt. 4. de Ciuit. cap. 9. qui dicere ſolebat, expedit in religione ciuitates falli, vnde tritũ fertur adagium, Mundus vult decipi, decipiatur ergo.

In the margin *: Machiavelli impietas*
quam si non statim in eius libris deprehendis
eam facile ex dictis eius elicies.
Socrates.

Nicolaus Machiavellus Atheorum huius saeculi facile princeps commentariis ad Titum Livum et libro de principe, omnia quae divina providentiam, bonitatem, et iustitiam valde commendant falsa esse, et a principibus ad incautae plebeculae instructionem conficta existimavit; ut qua ratio non posset ad officium, religio saltem duceret; in quem finem licitum esse mentiri docuit etiam Socrates et Scaevola qui dicere solebat expedit in religione civitates falli, unde tritum fertur adagium Mundus vult decipi, decipiatur ergo.

Machiavelli's impiety, which if you do not immediately
detect in his books, you will easily extract from his sayings.

Nicolaus M., easily the prince of the atheists of this century, in his commentaries on Titus Livius and the book on the prince, thought that everything that strongly commends divine providence, goodness, and justice was false, and was fabricated by the princes for the instruction of the unwary plebeians; so that if reason could not lead to duty, religion would at least lead to it; to which end it is lawful to lie, even Socrates (*Republic* Bk.2) and Scaevola (Augsutus 4; *de Civitatem*, Ch.9) taught, who used to say that it is expedient in religion to deceive cities, hence the well-worn adage, *The world wants to be deceived, therefore let it be deceived.*

M. Mersenne, *Quaestiones celeberrimae in Genesim: cum accurata textus explicatione*. 1623; p. 379